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STATUTES

OF THE

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

CHAPTER I.

Of Officers.

1. THERE shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Librarian, which officers shall be annually elected by written votes, the day next preceding the last Wednesday in May.

2. If either of the Secretaries, the Treasurer, or the Keeper of the Library die, resign, or be removed during the year, the vacant office or offices shall, at the next meeting of the Academy, be filled by written votes for the remainder of the year.

CHAPTER II.

Of the President.

1. It shall be the duty of the President, and, in his absence, of the Vice-President or next officer in order, as above enumerated, to preside at the meetings of the Academy; to summon extraordinary meetings of the Academy, upon any urgent occasion; and to execute or see to the execution of the statutes of the Academy.

2. The President, or in his absence the next officer as above enumerated, is empowered to draw upon the Treasurer for such sums of money as the Academy shall direct. Bills presented on account of the Library or the publications of the Academy must be previously approved by the respective committees on these departments.

3. Any deed or writing, to which the common seal is to be affixed, shall be signed and sealed by the President, when thereto authorized by the Academy.

CHAPTER III.

Of the Secretaries.

1. The Corresponding Secretary shall keep the letter-book, shall record all letters written in the name of the Academy, and preserve on file all letters which are received ; and, at each meeting, he shall read such letters as have been addressed to the Academy since the last meeting. With the advice and consent of the President, he may propose and make exchanges with such other scientific associations as he shall deem proper, and may give copies of the Transactions of the Academy for this purpose.

2. The Recording Secretary shall have charge of the charter and statute-book, journals, and all literary papers belonging to the Academy. He shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Academy at its meetings, and after each meeting is duly opened by the presiding officer, he shall read the proceedings of the last meeting. He shall post up in the hall a list of the persons nominated for election into the Academy, which list shall remain there at least during the interval between two successive quarterly meetings ; and when any individual is chosen, he shall insert in the records the names of the Fellows by whom he was nominated.

3. The Corresponding and Recording Secretaries shall have authority to publish in an octavo form such of the proceedings of the Academy as may seem to them calculated to advance the interests of science.

4. Until the further order of the Academy, it shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to transmit to every Fellow thereof residing in

foreign countries one copy of each volume of Memoirs hereafter published, as soon as convenient.

5. Any Fellow of the Academy shall be entitled to receive one copy o each volume hereafter published, by applying personally, or by written order, for the same within two years after such publication.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Treasurer.

1. The Treasurer shall give such security as the Academy may require, for the trust reposed in him.

2. The Treasurer shall receive officially all moneys or sums of money due or payable, and all bequests or donations made, to the Academy ; and, by order of the President or presiding officer, shall pay such sums as the Academy shall direct ; and shall keep an account of all receipts and expenditures.

3. All moneys or sums of money, which there shall not be present occasion to expend, shall be put out at interest on such securities, or otherwise disposed of, as the Academy shall direct.

4. The Treasurer shall keep a separate account of the income and appropriation of the Rumford fund, and report the same annually.

5. The Treasurer's accounts shall be annually audited by a committee appointed by the Academy for the purpose.

CHAPTER V.

Of the Library and Cabinet.

1. It shall be the duty of the Librarian to take charge of the books, to keep a correct catalogue of the same, and to provide for the delivery of books from the Library.

2. Any Fellow of the Academy may have at any one time three volumes from the Library.

3. Books may be kept out three calendar months, and no longer; and every person shall be subjected to a fine of twenty cents a week for every volume retained beyond that time.

4. Every person, who takes a book from the Library, shall give a receipt for the same to the Librarian or his assistant.

5. Every book shall be returned in good order, regard being had to the necessary wear of the book with good usage. And if any book shall be lost or injured, the person to whom it stands charged shall replace it by a new volume or set, if it belong to a set, or pay the current price of the volume or set to the Librarian; and thereupon the remainder of the set, if the volume belonged to a set, shall be delivered to the person so paying for the same.

6. All books shall be returned to the Library for examination, at least one week before the annual meeting. And every person then having one or more books and neglecting to return the same, as herein required, shall forfeit and pay a fine of one dollar.

7. A committee on the Library, to consist of three persons, of whom the Librarian shall be one, shall be chosen at the annual meeting in May. This committee shall examine the Library, and make report of its condition at the next annual meeting. They shall have authority to purchase such books, from time to time, as they may deem expedient; to make rules and regulations concerning the circulation, return, and safe keeping of the books; and to appoint such agents for these purposes as they may think necessary. And for all these objects there shall annually be appropriated a proper sum, to be expended under their direction, and the charges to be made either to the Rumford fund, or to that of the Academy, as the committee may direct.

CHAPTER VI.

Of Meetings.

1. There shall be annually four stated meetings of the Academy, namely, on the last Wednesday in January, the day next preceding the last Wednesday in May, the second Wednesday in August, and the second Wednesday in November, to be held at the Hall of the Academy in Boston.

2. The President shall have power to call extraordinary meetings of the Academy, at such time and place as he shall see fit.

3. Seven Fellows shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of every description, which may come before the Academy.

4. The Recording Secretary shall notify the meetings of the Academy to the Fellows residing in Boston and the vicinity, and shall also cause the meetings to be advertised in the public papers, whenever he deems such further notice to be necessary.

CHAPTER VII.

Of Fellows.

1. No person shall be elected a Fellow of the Academy, unless proposed and recommended by one or more Fellows, who shall subscribe their names to the recommendation upon the nomination list. The name shall stand on the nomination list at least during the interval between two statute meetings previous to the election. Three fourths of the votes given shall be necessary to constitute a majority for the admission of a member ; and when three fourths shall amount to less than seven, then seven votes shall be necessary. Should any person, on balloting, not be admitted, his name shall be removed from the nomination list ; but may at any future period be placed upon it again for a new nomination.

2. Each Fellow residing in the State of Massachusetts shall pay annually two dollars to the Academy, and such additional sum, not exceeding three dollars, as the Academy at its annual meeting shall require.

CHAPTER VIII.

On Literary Performances.

1. The Academy will never express its judgment on literary or scientific memoirs or performances submitted to it, or included in its printed transactions.

2. A committee of three persons, to be called the Committee on Publications, shall be chosen at each annual meeting, and to them all memoirs submitted to the Academy shall be referred.

RUMFORD PREMIUM.

In conformity with the last will of Benjamin Count Rumford, granting a certain fund to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of a decree of the Supreme Judicial Court for carrying into effect the general charitable intent and purpose of Count Rumford, as expressed in his said will, the Academy is empowered to make from the income of said fund, as it now exists, at any annual meeting, award of a gold and silver medal, being together of the intrinsic value of three hundred dollars, as a premium, to the author of any important discovery or useful improvement on light or on heat, which shall have been made and published by printing, or in any way made known to the public, in any part of the continent of America, or any of the American islands ; preference being always given to such discoveries as shall, in the opinion of the Academy, tend most to promote the good of mankind ; and to add to such medals, as a further premium for such discovery and improvement, if the Academy see fit so to do, a sum of money not exceeding three hundred dollars.

For this purpose, a standing committee is appointed annually by the Academy, in May, to consider and report on all applications for the Rumford Premium.